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Public Information Statement 16-21 Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1145 AM EDT Thu Jul 28 2016

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From: Eli Jacks
 Chief, Forecast Services Division

Subject: Amended: Soliciting Comments through November 30, 2016, on
Proposed Changes to Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning (TCV) and Hurricane
Local Statement (HLS) Products for Atlantic Tropical Cyclones Affecting
the Continental United States

Amended to extend comment period through November 30, 2016.

Effective immediately and continuing through November 30, 2016, the NWS is
seeking user feedback on proposed changes to Tropical Cyclone
Watch/Warning (TCV) and Hurricane Local Statement (HLS) products for
Atlantic tropical cyclones affecting the continental U.S. (CONUS).

Specifically, the NWS is proposing implementing new storm surge watches
and warnings in association with Atlantic tropical cyclones affecting the
CONUS beginning with the 2017 hurricane season. These new storm surge
watches and warnings will be integrated within the TCV and HLS products.

All TCV products issued by the NWS during the 2017 season for tropical
cyclones originating in the Atlantic basin affecting the CONUS would
include Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) for storm surge watches and/or
warnings when conditions warrant. In addition, the NWS is proposing to
expand the VTEC available in TCV products issued by the National Hurricane
Center (NHC) for Atlantic tropical cyclones affecting the CONUS to include
all NWS-issued VTEC both along the coast and inland.

Because of the increased information included, it is possible that the NHC
TCV product may not be sent until as much as 45 minutes after the NHC
advisory package in some circumstances. No changes are expected for the
release times of the TCV and HLS products issued by local Weather Forecast
Offices (WFOs).

Changes to the HLS products issued by WFOs would be limited to the "NEW
INFORMATION" section of the product. The subsections for "CHANGES TO THE
WATCHES AND WARNINGS" and "CURRENT WATCHES AND WARNINGS" would include
storm surge watch warnings.

Information about the HLS product and VTEC can be found here:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn14-67tcv.pdf>

Examples of the WFO and NHC issued TCV products with the new format can be viewed at:

www.nhc.noaa.gov/experimental/tcv

If the NWS decides to make storm surge watches and warnings operational in 2017, a Service Change Notice will be issued announcing the effective date. No changes are being made to the operational TCV and HLS products during the 2016 Tropical Season.

Please send comments or requests for more information by November 30, 2016 to:

Jessica Schauer
NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch
Miami, FL
Telephone: 305-229-4476
Email: jessica.schauer@noaa.gov

or

Wayne Presnell
NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch
Silver Spring, MD
Telephone: 301-427-9390
Email: wayne.presnell@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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